

# MUSTANG DAILY

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY



**Obama fights for the use of his BlackBerry.**

IN NEWS, 3

**Cal Poly senior wide receiver Ramses Barden will play in the Senior Bowl tomorrow.**

IN SPORTS, 12

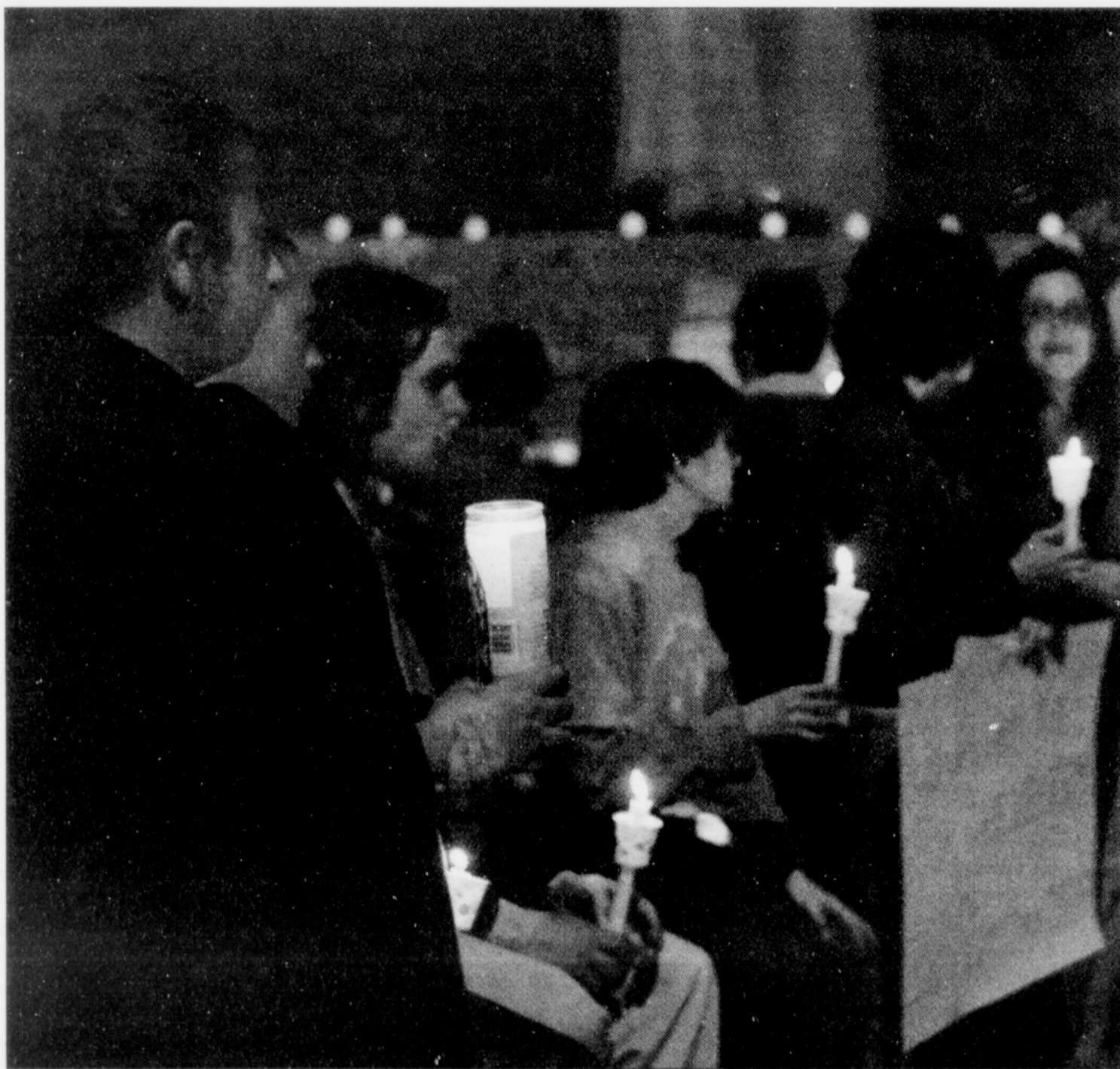


Volume LXXII, Number 77

Friday, January 23, 2009

www.mustangdaily.net

## Students and community hold vigil for Gaza victims



LAUREN RABAINO MUSTANG DAILY

About 15 students and community members attended a candlelight vigil for victims of the Gaza conflict at the Mission Plaza on Thursday night. The event, organized by Students for Justice and Peace in the Middle East, billed itself as non-political. Attendants said they came to mourn both Israeli and Palestinian victims of the conflict. Jacob Kory, electrical engineering senior and president of Cal Poly's Israel Alliance, was also in attendance.

## Students come from China to master dairy science

Ashley Ciullo  
MUSTANG DAILY

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences will host the first two students from Shanghai Jiao Tong University this fall in a new joint dual master's degree program.

The students already have a Master of Science in food science and technology from Shanghai Jiao Tong University and will attend Cal Poly for the second half of a two-and-a-half year master's degree program. They will research dairy science for 12 to 14 months to obtain a Masters of Science in agriculture with a specialization in dairy products technology. Faculty from both schools will collaborate in the research project. The goal of the program is to host new students every year.

Phillip Tong, dairy science professor and director of Cal Poly's Dairy Products Technology Center, visited China 15 years ago as part of a team from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that gave educational seminars on dairy science. About 10 years ago, the Dairy Products Technology Center began hosting foreign scholars.

China's economy has grown rapidly in the past 20 years and the food industry is demanding higher quality nutrients in food. China's dairy industry, however, is underdeveloped and relies heavily on milk powder and dairy products from other countries. Students from Shanghai Jiao Tong University

will attend Cal Poly to learn, understand and ensure the quality of dairy products.

"We hope to provide training and science-based information to help advance the China industry to be self-sustaining," Tong said. "We are trying to train the next generation of leaders for the Chinese dairy industry."

Former dean of CAFES Joe Jen was in charge of research, education and economic issues as the under secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He eventually returned to Cal Poly where he was appointed a senior advisor to President Warren Baker and California State University Chancellor Charles Reed in 2006 with the goal to help Cal Poly expand internationally.

Jen said the high quality of practical research attracted Shanghai Jiao Tong University to work with Cal Poly. "We provide a uniqueness that intrigued them to do something at a master degree level," he said.

Jen and Baker traveled to China in April 2007 to explore joint program ideas with Shanghai Jiao Tong University, one of the oldest and highly regarded universities in China, once known as the "Eastern MIT." Out of the 38,000 students enrolled, 18,000 are graduate students.

Mark Shelton, associate dean of the CAFES, traveled to China in June to develop a long-term plan.

see China, page 2

## Obama signs order to close Guantanamo

Tom Raum and Philip Elliott  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama moved quickly Thursday to reshape U.S. national-security policy, ordering the Guantanamo Bay prison camp closed within a year, forbidding the harshest treatment of terror suspects and naming new envoys to the Middle East and Afghanistan-Pakistan.

"We have no time to lose," he said at the State Department as he welcomed newly confirmed Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to help him forge what he called "a new era of American leadership" in the world.

He said his administration is committed to lead. "We can no longer afford drift, and we can no longer afford delay, nor can we cede

ground to those who seek destruction," he said.

On his second full day in office, Obama moved to reverse some of the most contentious policies of his predecessor, George W. Bush.

By ordering shut the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, closing any remaining CIA secret prisons overseas and banning harsh interrogation practices, Obama said he was signaling that the U.S. would confront global violence without sacrificing "our values and our ideals."

"First, I can say without exception or equivocation that the United States will not torture," he said. "Second, we will close the Guantanamo Bay detention camp and deter-

see Gitmo, page 2



CHARLES DHARAPAK ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama signs a series of executive orders, Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.



## China

continued from page 1

A memorandum of agreement was signed to establish a joint masters of science degree program in dairy food/science between the CAFES at Cal Poly and the school of agriculture and biology at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

Shelton said that Cal Poly can provide a practical application of dairy science to students who can then use the knowledge to improve China's industry.

"I think this program is a great way to internationalize for world peace, positive international relations and exposure to different cultures.

The more we stay connected to China, the better," he said.

Bruce Golden, professor and department head of the dairy science department, said the new students will be working with other students in labs and classrooms. Cal Poly students, he said, will be exposed to Chinese culture and build networks.

"Asian markets are very important to the dairy industry. We are teaching and improving the ability to process dairy ingredients into sellable products. A successful program will expand professional relationships between China and the U.S. and build a mutual relationship as members of the international community," Golden said.

Sheng Yi, a director's assis-

tant at Jiao Tong's SJTU-Bor Luh Food Safety Center and visiting scholar at Cal Poly, said that Shanghai Jiao Tong University will benefit from the "learn by doing" experience at Cal Poly.

"We will gain an opportunity to practice and strengthen our education," she said. "Cal Poly can learn about the Chinese culture, and we will be able to communicate with each other more directly to solve problems."

"Hopefully this will induce other programs in other departments. I have seen interest in foreign students wanting to come to Cal Poly; hopefully Cal Poly students will be interested in researching the reciprocal. We are opening the door for expansion," Jen said.

## Gitmo

continued from page 1

mine how to deal with those who have been held there."

The president and Clinton jointly announced the appointment of former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, a veteran troubleshooter who helped broker peace in Northern Ireland, as special envoy to the Middle East. Former U.N. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, who helped write the peace deal that ended Bosnia's 1992-95 war, was named special envoy for Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Obama said he would aggressively seek a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians while also always defending Israel's "right to defend itself." He called on Israel and Hamas to take steps aimed at ensuring that the cease-fire that's in place in Gaza will endure.

And, citing a "deteriorating situation" in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, Obama said that region is now "the central front" in the battle against terrorism and extremism.

"There, as in the Middle East, we must understand that we cannot deal with our problems in isolation," he said.

Earlier, in signing a series of executive orders in the Oval Office that included closing Guantanamo, Obama said his administration would not "continue with a false choice between our safety and our ideals," a slap at policies pursued by Bush.

The much-maligned U.S. prison camp would be shut down within a year, in keeping with a frequent Obama campaign promise. The administration already has suspended trials for terrorist suspects at Guantanamo for 120 days pending a review of the military tribunals.

Congressional Democrats welcomed the moves.

"President Obama is ushering in a new era of smart, strong and principled national security policies, and Congress stands ready to work with him each step of the way," said Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, outgoing chairman of the Intelligence Committee.

But there was skeptical questioning from Republicans. House Minority Leader John Boehner was among a group

of House Republicans who quickly filed a bill seeking to bar federal courts from ordering Guantanamo detainees to be released into the United States.

Boehner, R-Ohio, said it "would be irresponsible to close this terrorist detainee facility" before "important questions" are resolved. Boehner said these include where will the detainees go when Guantanamo is closed and how will they be secured?

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said such issues would be determined in the coming days.

"Obviously, what started today was a process," Gibbs said.

The president set up a task force that would have 30 days to recommend policies on handling terror suspects who are detained in the future and where Guantanamo detainees should be housed once it has closed.

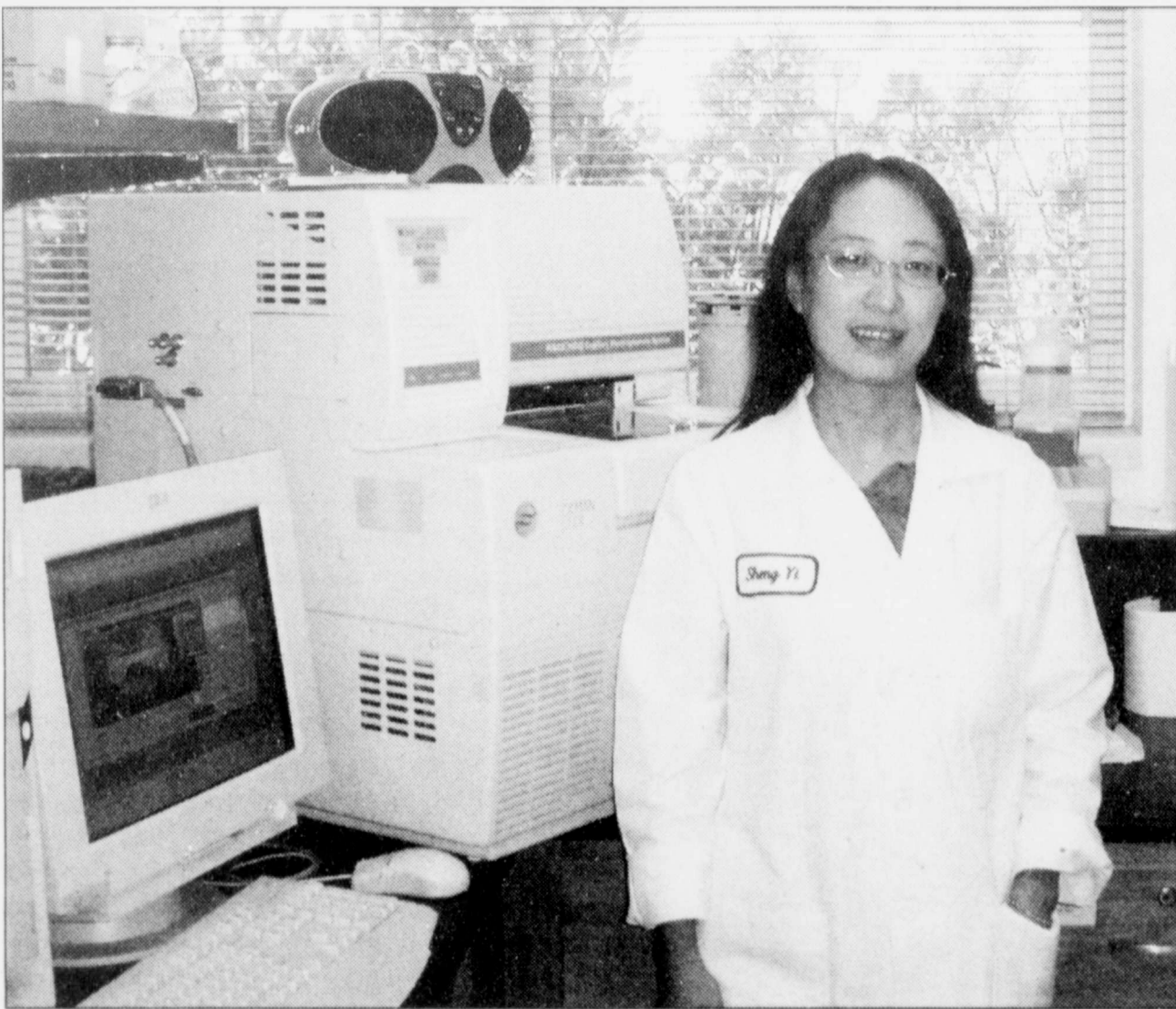
Obama also signed an order requiring all U.S. personnel to follow the U.S. Army Field Manual while interrogating detainees and told the Justice Department to review the case of Qatar native Ali al-Marri, who is the only enemy combatant currently being held in the U.S.

Separately, retired Adm. Dennis Blair, Obama's pick to oversee the nation's intelligence agencies, told a Senate confirmation hearing that the manual would no longer be called the Army Field Manual but would be renamed "the manual for government interrogations."

Blair told the Senate Intelligence Committee the manual also will be reviewed for possible changes. It now outlines 19 legal techniques and forbids nine.

Blair said he hoped to rebuild trust in the nation's intelligence agencies. These agencies "must respect the privacy and civil liberties of the American people, and they must adhere to the rule of law," he said. As director of national intelligence, Blair will oversee the CIA, National Security Agency and other assorted intelligence units.

U.S. foreign policy in the new administration will be overseen by four former senators — Obama and Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden, who served together until after this year's election, and Mitchell, who served much earlier as Senate majority leader.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sheng Yi, a director's assistant at Jiao Tong's SJTU-Bor Luh Food Safety Center and visiting scholar at Cal Poly, thinks students will benefit from the master's program

## Little Love Notes

Your message will run in a special section of the Mustang Daily on Friday, February 13.

\$2.00

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Happy Valentine's Day Brad. I love you! Kelly

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## FEELING SICK?

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Cal Poly's news is at your finger tips — while you rest in bed.



# Obama's personal win: keeping the BlackBerry



JAE C. HONG ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama, seen here last June checks his BlackBerry in Charlotte, N.C. President-elect Barack Obama used to collect comic books, can't part with his BlackBerry, and once flashed Leonard "Mr. Spock" Nimoy the Vulcan "Live Long and Prosper" sign, evidence to some that he'll be the first American president to show distinct signs of geekiness.

Lisa Tolin

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The first family settled into their new lives in the White House on Thursday as President Barack Obama won an important personal victory: He gets to keep his BlackBerry.

Obama will be the first sitting president to use e-mail, and he has been reluctant to part with his ever-present handheld device. Its use will be limited to keeping in touch with senior staff and personal friends, said White House spokesman Robert Gibbs.

"I've won the fight, but I don't

think it's up and running," Obama said as he walked through the White House briefing room Thursday evening to meet reporters.

And though Gibbs said Obama had to ask at one point where to go next in his "pretty big house," he also said the president was enjoying living above the store and had time for dinner with the family on Wednesday.

"I think that obviously means a lot to him as a father," Gibbs said.

But two days of frivolity were, apparently, enough. Michelle Obama had no public schedule for the rest of the week as she helped the girls make themselves at home, said Mrs.

Obama's spokeswoman, Katie McCormick Lelyveld.

"Her primary focus this week is getting the kids settled. She is focused entirely on getting unpacked and getting the kids up and running," McCormick Lelyveld said.

Both girls were excited to get their rooms set up, McCormick Lelyveld said. Mrs. Obama has worked hard throughout the transition to maintain a strong routine for Sasha, 7, and Malia, 10.

"I know the family's moved now three times in only a few weeks. But if you know them and you know their family, they've had a routine for a long time," Gibbs said. "This is a monumental testament to Michelle."

The monumental testament to her husband? He won the BlackBerry battle.

Gibbs joked that the development was "almost as exciting as the presidential dog." He poked fun at the White House press corps for stirring at the news during his briefing. "Let's make sure the pen still works."

But the BlackBerry victory is a big concession. Obama said earlier that he was working with the Secret Service, lawyers and White House staff to keep the device.

Gibbs said the president will limit its use, and security has been enhanced to ensure that Obama can communicate in a way that's protected. Only a small number of senior staff members and personal friends would be given his e-mail address.

see Obama, page 4

## WORD ON THE STREET

"Do you think Caroline Kennedy made the right decision to withdraw from the New York senate bid?"



"No. I think that if you make a commitment to the U.S. government you should keep it."

-Sean Carroll, biomedical engineering senior

"Yes. I think she should have done it a long time ago. I don't feel like she was qualified. She just played the name card Kennedy."

-David Hall, business senior



"No. I feel like if she really wanted it, she should have gone through with her decision."

-Aaron Hardiek, statistics junior

"I don't know a lot about it, but based on what I've heard, if she feels she's not capable of being the best senator for New York, then I think she made the right decision."

-Joanna Trujillo, animal science senior



COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY KRIZIA TORRES

# Va. Tech grad student knew suspected killer, police said

Sue Lindsey

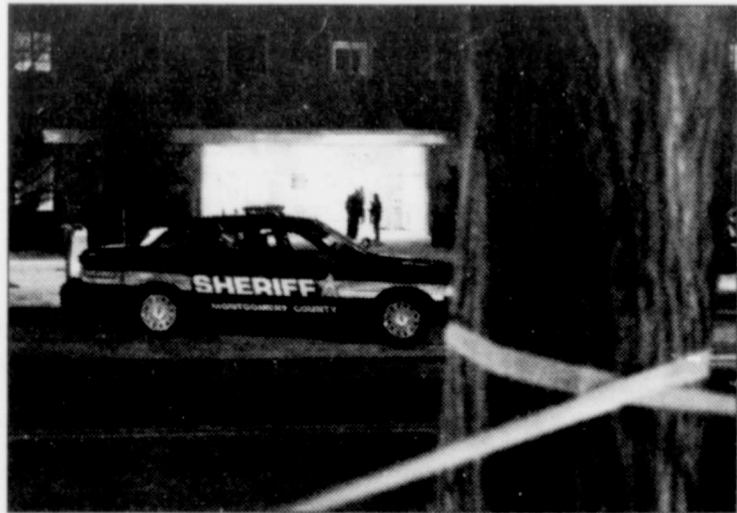
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alone and in a new country, graduate student Xin Yang reached out to other Chinese students at Virginia Tech when she arrived two weeks ago, trying to establish her life on campus.

She went to social events with international students, got in touch with the campus center that works to help them adjust and appeared to be making friends as she settled into her accounting program, those who had met her said.

But one of the friendships may have led to her death: Police say she was decapitated with a kitchen knife while having coffee with a Chinese doctoral student in a campus cafe Wednesday night.

The killing stunned a campus that still has vivid memories of the mass slayings in April 2007, when a student gunman shot 32 people and then took his own life. The stabbing was



MAIT GENTRY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police and officials gather outside the lobby of the Donaldson Brown Graduate Life Center at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. Wednesday night.

the first slaying on campus since then.

"An act of violence like this brings back memories of April 16," university President Charles Steger said. "I have no doubt that many of us feel especially distraught."

It appeared Yang had met her accused attacker, 25-year-old Haiyang Zhu of Ningbo, China, only recently, said Kim Beisecker, the director of Cranwell International Center, which works with inter-

national students. Zhu, a doctoral student in agricultural and applied economics, had been assisting her in adjusting to life at Tech, something the 500 Chinese students often do for new members in their community, she said.

They both attended functions for international students, she said.

"She was a very sweet young woman," she said. "He was known as a polite young man."

Though they apparent-

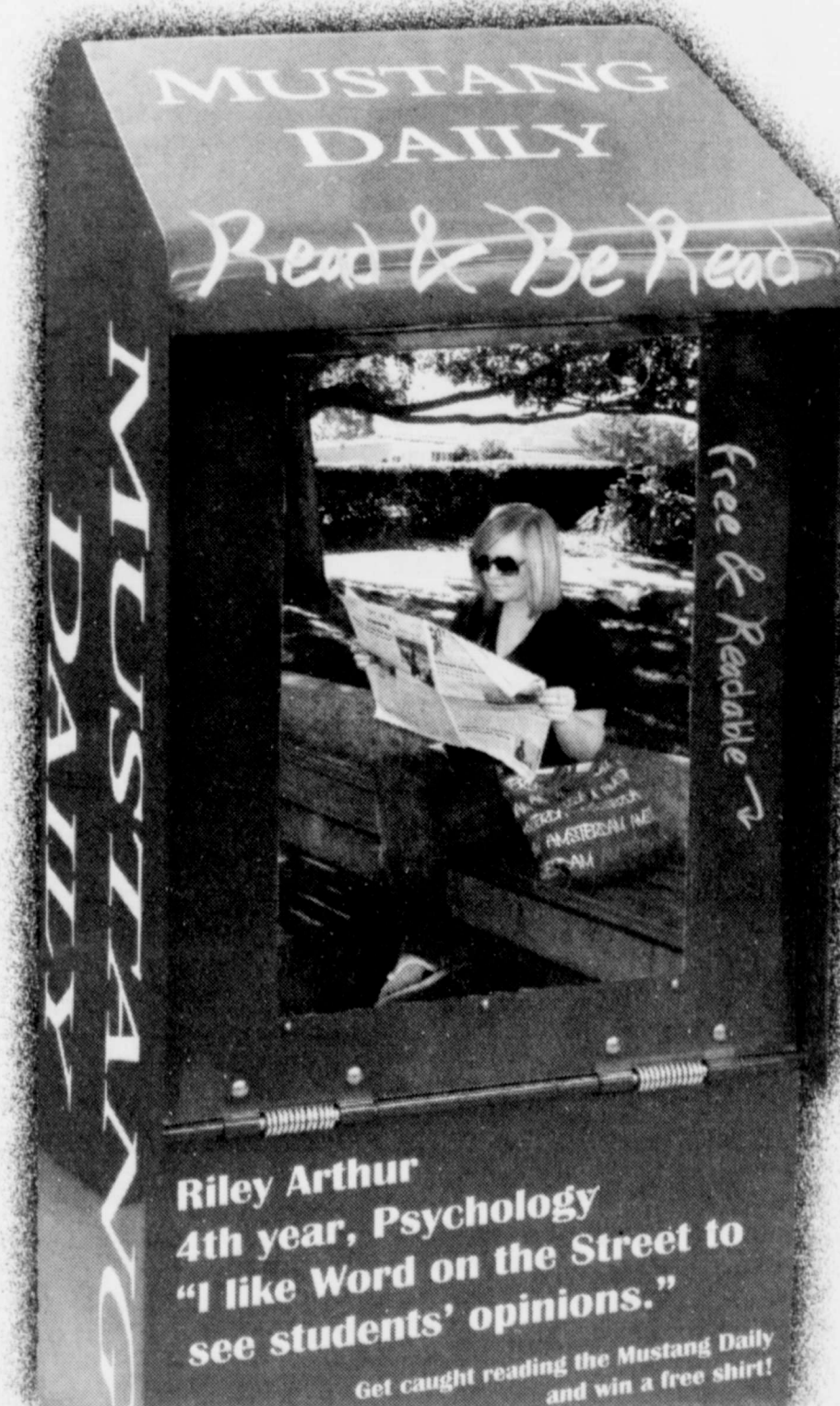
ly didn't know each other well, school records listed Zhu as one of her emergency contacts. Beisecker said that may have been because Yang knew few people on campus.

"As best we know, she had made a fair number of friends, but only in the last week," Beisecker said.

What led to the attack is also a mystery: about seven other people who were in the coffee shop told police that the two hadn't been arguing before the attack.

Beisecker said there hadn't been previous signs of trouble between them. Police received two 911 calls shortly after 7 p.m. Wednesday, and were on the scene in a little more than a minute to take Zhu into custody, Virginia Tech Police Chief Wendell Flinchum said.

Zhu was charged with first-degree murder and was being held without bond at the Montgomery County Jail. His attorney, Stephanie Cox, did not return a call seeking comment Thursday.





## Briefs

### State

#### BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP)

— Attorney General Jerry Brown is urging a federal court to reject an attempt to conceal the identities of donors to the gay marriage ban passed last year by California voters.

Brown filed a brief Thursday asking the court to deny a preliminary injunction sought by supporters of Proposition 8. If granted, the injunction would free them from having to file campaign finance reports detailing late contributions.

The measure's supporters also have asked the court to order state officials to remove names of donors that already have been posted on the secretary of state's Web site.

#### OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)

— The University of California is considering a plan to expand financial aid to students from lower-income families.

The proposal by UC President Mark Yudof is aimed at helping students from families making less than the state's median household income of \$60,000.

The plan, which would cost about \$3 million, would guarantee that students from such families receive enough financial aid to at least cover UC fees. It would apply to an estimated 48,000 students, or about one-third of UC undergrads.

### National

#### NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)

— Nashville voters cast ballots Thursday on a proposal that would make it the largest U.S. city to require all government business be done in English.

Polls were set to close at 7 p.m. CDT in the special election that has sparked intense debate in the city of nearly 600,000 people. Proponents say using one language would unite the city, but business leaders, academics and the city's mayor worry it could give the city a bad reputation. Similar measures have passed elsewhere.

Exactly how much translation would be silenced if the measure passes is murky. While it requires that all government communication and publications be printed in English, it allows an exception for public health and safety.

#### ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)

— Caroline Kennedy's mysteriously abrupt decision to abandon her Senate bid gave rise to an ugly swirl of accusations Thursday and feverish speculation over whether she jumped or was pushed.

The 51-year-old daughter of President John F. Kennedy was widely considered a front-runner for the Senate seat until she sent a midnight e-mail to reporters and Gov. David Paterson saying she was withdrawing for what she described only as personal reasons.

### International

#### ISRAEL (AP)

— Israel said Thursday it is lifting restrictions on foreign journalists entering the Gaza Strip, a ban that had drawn strong criticism from news media.

The government said journalists would be free to enter and leave the war-ravaged territory starting Friday — two days before the Israeli Supreme Court was scheduled to rule on a request by the Foreign Press Association to declare the restrictions illegal.

The court hearing will probably not take place if the government lifts the ban.

Israel imposed restrictions on entry to Gaza in early November as a cease-fire with Gaza's Hamas rulers began to fray.

#### DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)

— U.S. President Barack Obama's decision Thursday to shut secret CIA-run prisons abroad brought renewed calls for their locations to be disclosed as well a fresh denial from Poland, one of two eastern European countries most closely linked to the practice.

Across Europe, governments uneasy that CIA flights had been carrying terrorism suspects through their airports and air space for years said they were relieved to be heading into a new rendition-free era.

### Obama

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Previous presidents chose not to use e-mail because it can be subpoenaed by Congress and courts and may be subject to public records laws. And Gibbs said the presumption from the White House counsel's office is that Obama's e-mails will be subject to the Presidential Records Act, which requires the National Archives to preserve presidential records.

But he also said there are exceptions for "strictly personal communications."

Obama has often been seen checking his e-mail on his handheld device, even when it meant getting his hands slapped by Michelle during his daughter's soccer game.

Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton didn't e-mail while in office, although Bush was an active e-mailer before becoming president.

That was before the era of the BlackBerry, a device now ubiquitous in Washington and precious to

Obama. When asked by The Associated Press about his worst habit during the campaign, Obama responded, "Checking my BlackBerry."

Gibbs said the president believes that using the device is an effective way to keep in touch with people without "getting stuck in a bubble."

He said Obama's e-mails to him personally have ranged "from something that's very strictly business to, why did my football team perform so miserably on either any given Saturday or any given Sunday?"

Those who have access to the president's e-mail will be briefed about appropriate communications, Gibbs said, without offering specifics.

So the president who gave up smoking — mostly — managed to avoid withdrawal from his other addiction — mostly.

All in all, Gibbs said, Obama looked comfortable in his new surroundings.

"They're very much the same four people that I met five years ago when I went to work for them," he said, before conceding, "Obviously, it's a little different."

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THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS

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Dripping Springs, TX



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4PM**

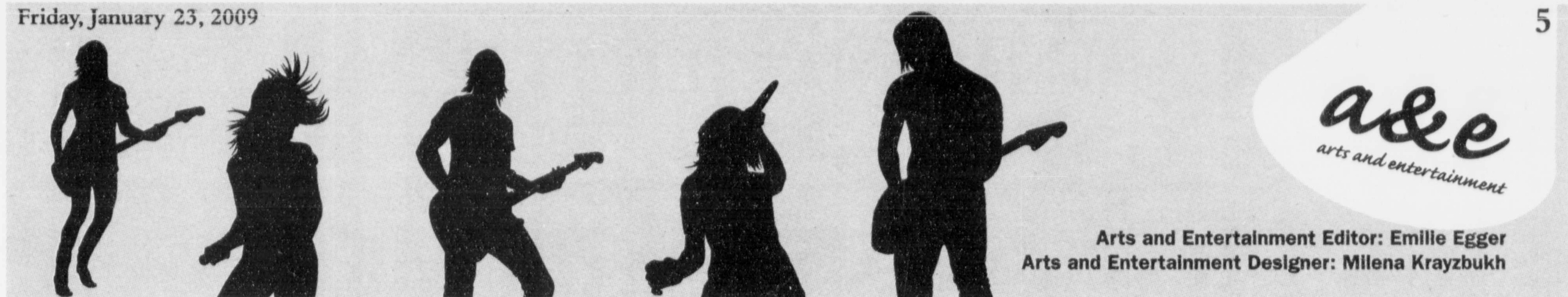
Lisa McBride  
Tucson, AZ

**CAL POLY  
BASKETBALL**

VS







Arts and Entertainment Editor: Emille Egger  
Arts and Entertainment Designer: Milena Krayzbukh

# SF Symphony makes rare appearance in SLO

**Clinton McGue**  
MUSTANG DAILY

Turn the bass down, throw out the auto-tune lyrics and save the hard-hitting beats for another time. It's time to set aside the artificial noises and capture the organic instrumentation when the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) strolls into town.

As part of its 10-day West Coast Tour that starts in Seattle, Wash. and ends in Palm Desert, Calif., the SFS will perform on two college campuses: Chico State and Cal Poly.

It will take center stage at Cal Poly's Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m. Friday.

"We look forward to a lot of excited young people enjoying our program," symphony spokesperson Oliver Theill said.

The symphony has traveled the world, played in world-class halls and is internationally respected among musicians. The music appeals to people of all ages and all levels of familiarity with classical music.

Although the typical sounds coming from Hathaway Avenue may be considered the antithesis to the symphonic sound, the SFS believes their style of music play attracts all groups of people.

"The SFS and its music director Michael Tilson Thomas are very much known for making classical music more accessible to people of all ages," Theill said. "As evidenced by the success of the 'Keeping Score' PBS television series and Web sites that really stress the fact that anyone can enjoy classical music."

Thomas joined the symphony back in 1995 and since then the or-

chestra has risen to the forefront of American arts institutions.

"He is a leader in not just what happens on stage, but also in making music accessible through media," Theill said.

It's difficult for observers to determine which piece performed by

Thomas' group is the best, but they agree there are many that qualify.

"They will be playing popular music by Aaron Copland, a piece by Albano Berg, which will be more of a 20th century sound, and a piece by Tchaikovsky, which is a pretty big deal," director of Cal Poly Arts Steve Lorian said.

The performance will feature a repertoire of modern and classical

music.

The fusion of the hymn tunes from Copland's "Our Town," the expressionistic landscape of Berg's "Three Pieces for Orchestra," and the immense power and lyricism of Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 5" offers an engaging journey for the audience, Theill said.

Eager to present the opportunity for residents and students of San Luis

Obispo to experience the adventure, Cal Poly booked them for a rare appearance.

"They're one of the great symphonies in this country and an opportunity to present them is a once-in-10-years chance," Lorian explained.

You can purchase your tickets at the PAC. Student tickets range from \$44 to \$54, while public tickets range from \$56 to \$68.

**They're one of the great symphonies in this country and an opportunity to present them is a once-in-10-year chance.**

—Steve Lorian

Director of Cal Poly Arts

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Mustang Daily

"If you cried, Omar, I would hand you a tissue,  
I wouldn't judge you — but the world would."

# MUSTANG DAILY OPINION/EDITORIAL

Friday, January 23, 2009

Editor in chief: Marlize van Romburgh  
Managing Editor: Giana Magnoli

[mustangdaily@gmail.com](mailto:mustangdaily@gmail.com)

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6

## It's 'tool' time with Marci word of the week woman Palla

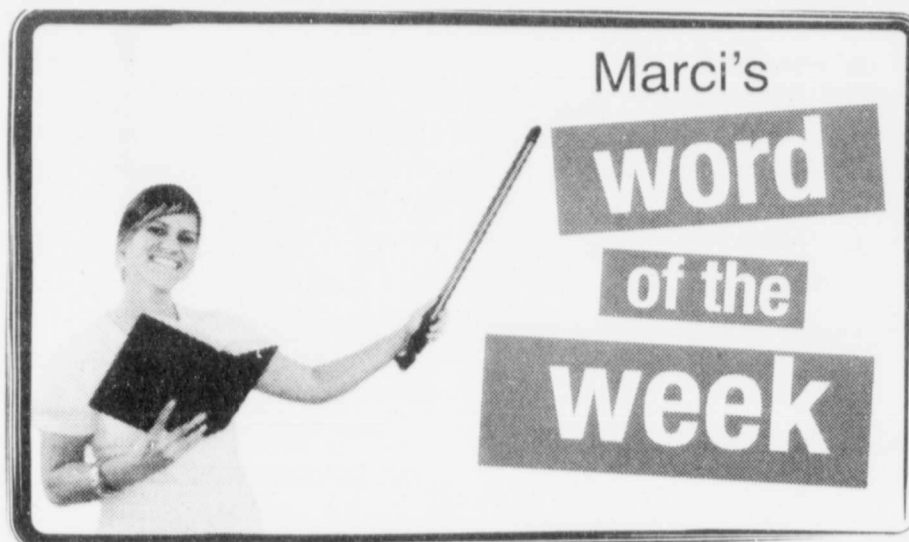
In general, a tool is something one uses or manipulates. For this article, we will explore the people one uses or manipulates, specifically the male variety.

These tools are most commonly used by douchebags. In fact, while douchebags often run in packs with other douchebags, they usually employ a tool as their best friend. Such celebrity pairings include Bart Simpson and Millhouse and for fans of "The Hills," Brody and Doug.

In case you are unsure what the difference is between a tool and a douchebag, let me explain. Both douchebags and tools spend an excess amount of time and energy trying to be cool (occasionally this involves joining fraternities), but while a douchebag thinks he has arrived, a tool engages in an eternal struggle without ever perceiving himself as truly becoming "the shit."

It is his burning desire to reach this level of alpha male that creates an internal desperation. This desperation makes the tool open to manipulation. It is a little pitiful — almost enough to stop me from continuing this article, but not quite.

So here are the signs of a tool:



1. White-rimmed sunglasses
2. Oversized sunglasses
3. Spending an hour or more at the beach without a shirt or a thought of entering the water (i.e. a paddle ball session)
4. The craving to have a perfect tan
5. Spending as much time, or more, as a princess to get ready in the morning
6. Professionally trimmed facial hair
7. Spiked hair at an age where one can grow facial hair
8. Excessive use of hair gel
9. A pre-gym shower accompanied by hair gelled to perfection (Really, what's the point?)

10. Flexing muscles in front of the Rec Center mirror (of course, an excessive amount of mirror time would count even if he is not flexing)

11. Unnecessary grunting (specifically while lifting weights)

12. Color-coordinated gym outfits

13. Shirts three sizes too small

14. A void caused by inadequate levels of self-esteem sought to be filled by making out with as many girls as possible

As a disclaimer, I must mention that the occurrence of one of the aforementioned signs does not necessarily indicate a tool.<sup>1</sup> But you would be surprised at how often one sees a young man sporting a backwards hat barely over the top of his eyebrows accompanied by another young man wearing a tiny T-shirt and white-rimmed sunglasses.

Marci Palla is a public policy graduate student and a Mustang Daily's humor columnist. "Marci's Word of the Week" explores some of the more important vernacular of college life, one word at a time.

1. Except number 14 — that is pretty much a guarantee.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Obama's message of hope deserves to be believed

It was very disappointing to read the cynical staff editorial on Jan. 20, "Today we inaugurate a man, not a God." We can agree that we should not expect miracles and any instant results. However, it is sad to see the editorial denigrating the credible message of hope and optimism from the incoming president and his cabinet populated with smart appointees.

The inherent pessimism in that editorial seems aligned with the ethos of the Bush-Cheney paranoia and perhaps in accord with the caustic and intellectually flawed message from naysayer-in-chief Rush Limbaugh and his gullible supporters.

In contrast, let us be the advocates who engender the belief that "all things are indeed possible" when we have smart presidential leadership that is anchored with integrity and pragmatism. That would be the better stance to provide us with the hope of better days for all Americans, both rich and poor.

I submit that we now have a new dawn, after eight dark years during "the reign of error by George W. Bush." Given the choice between hopeful optimism and cynical pessimism, we as a community of scholars who value intellectual reasoning should lean towards optimism and confidence for a brighter future vis-à-vis any prophecy of gloom and doom anchored with pessimism.

So, let's lend credence to the new motto of "yes we can and yes indeed we will reach the promised

land."

**Unny Menon**  
industrial and manufacturing  
engineering professor

### Alcohol use portrayed as dangerous and fun

The first article I read in Thursday's paper told the tragic story of Carson Starkey's death, attributed to alcohol poisoning. I believe it is very important that stories such as Carson's be well distributed so that others may avoid his fate. For that I was glad to see this article featured on the front page.

However, upon reading further through the paper, I came across another article regarding the release of a new album, Titus Andronicus. This article, on three separate occasions, praised alcohol for its ability to relieve us of our inhibitions. At one point the author even wrote we ought to "shoot down a fifth of vodka," a prospect which could easily lead to the kind of alcohol poisoning which took Carson's life.

I question whether it is wise to publish articles which glorify alcohol in a paper which is widely read by students who are not only underage but also relatively unaware of the potential dangers of alcohol. For many, college is the first environment offering consistent, unrestricted, and unsupervised access to alcohol, a dangerous combination for those not aware of their limits.

I do not believe that alcohol is some evil or malicious substance but I do think caution ought to be taken, particularly by those who have had few encounters with

drinking before entering college. The article concerning Titus Andronicus encourages us to disregard any such caution and let heavy drinking solve our problems.

**Ian Kennedy**  
biomedical engineering senior

### Can't deny that America needs some fixing

Am I the only one who will miss the weekly laugh from reading Ian Nachreiner's political column? Every week I read his column and couldn't help but laugh at his truth, justice and conservative ways. Last week Ian stated that Bush's policies and decisions have kept America safe for the last eight years.

I admit, it is a fact that we have not had an attack on American soil since Sept. 11, but giving credit to Bush's decisions is like saying FDR's decision to place Japanese Americans in internment camps is what kept us safe after Pearl Harbor. The fact that we haven't had an attack on American soil is not a result of Bush's policies.

And then again this week I got another good laugh reading how Ian doesn't believe our country needs remaking. Ian, if you think that the worst economy since the Great Depression doesn't need remaking or a government who goes to war without the approval of Congress doesn't need remaking then I truly wonder what you consider a "broken" system.

Finally, a comment on your column's title. There was no truth to Bush's reasons to invade Iraq, there is no justice in imprisoning people in Guantanamo Bay without for-

mally charging them, and that is the conservative way.

**Brad Smalarz**  
aerospace engineering junior

### Arabs and Jews are both semitic, people but Palestine is still anti-Semitic

In response to George's letter to the editor appearing on Jan. 22: Arabs are indeed a part of the Semitic people group. However, anti-Semitism is defined in the dictionary as hatred towards Jews. Not because Jews are the only Semites, but because the word originated in Germany in the late 1800s in order to give Jew-hating a more scientific name. You can argue that the term itself does not make any sense, but that does not mean there is no anti-Jewish propaganda in the Arab world.

Also, we never said Israel had no responsibility in the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, we do feel compelled to voice our points of view.

I can appreciate your point about responding to rockets with machine guns. But remember, getting hit in the head with a rock can cause serious damage! And would you suggest Israeli soldiers pelt Palestinians with rocks as a response, or that they send suicide bombers to Palestinian cities? I do not think that an attacker has the right to dictate how the other person should respond, and Israel should not apologize for having a strong army. If it did not, there would not be any Israel.

**Zachary Goldstein**  
mechanical engineering senior



# Classifieds comics and games

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## Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

popculturecomics.com © Doug Bratton 2009



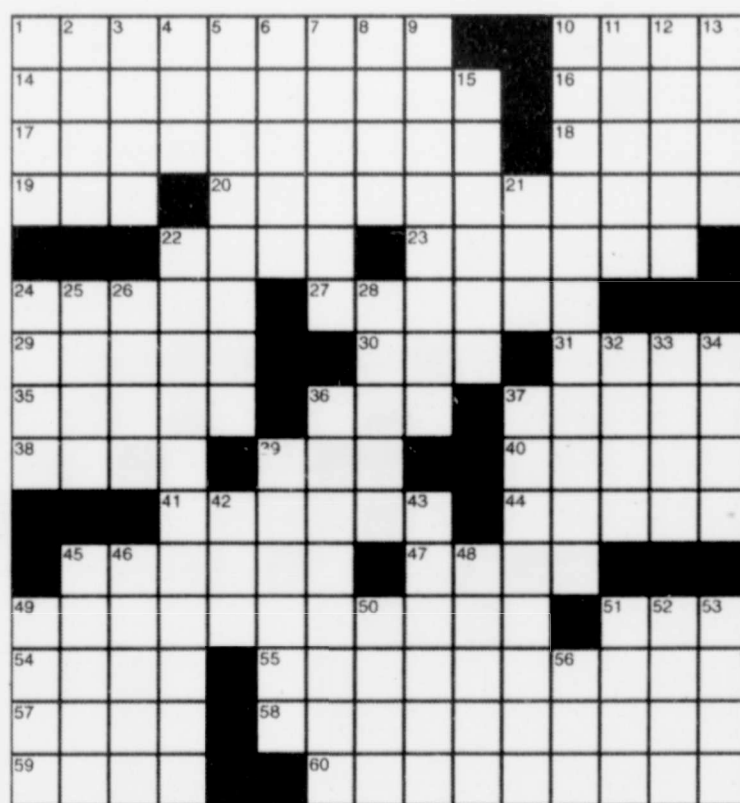
Cereal cartoons are more competitive than you might imagine.

- Across**
- 1 Ding-dong
  - 10 Remarkably, in commercialese
  - 14 Exuberant cry from Pinocchio
  - 16 React angrily
  - 17 Hit video game series launched in 2005
  - 18 Minor area?
  - 19 Option for seeing the sites quickly, for short
  - 20 Hammering away at
  - 22 Basher \_\_\_\_, one of the eleven in "Ocean's Eleven"
  - 23 Networks, e.g.
  - 24 Third book of the Book of Mormon
  - 27 Like a baby's bottom, often
  - 29 In a state of entanglement
  - 30 Annual honoree: Abbr.
- Down**
- 31 Precursor to 41-Across
  - 35 It's often hard to maintain under pressure
  - 36 Blooming period
  - 37 "Da Ali G Show" persona
  - 38 Longtime Delaware senator William
  - 39 Unpopular singer
  - 40 Parry
  - 41 Successor of 31-Across
  - 44 Club with a big ball
  - 45 Alternative bookstore section
  - 47 Lead, for one
  - 49 Russian's neighbor
  - 51 Luminox
  - 54 Showed respect, in a way
  - 55 Flood
  - 57 Table center piece?
  - 58 Wind instrument
  - 59 Bop
  - 60 Reacts to a big buffet

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CBS FACED AJIFF  
LOO TRONY RADII  
UNDERCOVERAGENT  
BEAN SLY ABUSES  
VIII ARIA  
SWORNTOSECRECY  
SHEIK HIS SLOE  
EEL SABBATH AHA  
MALA BOO ASTER  
IFITOLDYOUTHEN  
PLAY FREE  
DECEIT IFS LAMP  
IDHAVETOKILLYOU  
EDUCE OWENS ELM  
TAMES RAYED SEA

- 21 Be altered?
- 22 Common A.T.M. feature
- 24 Five-time N.H.L. scoring leader of the 1990s-'00s
- 25 Its locks are tight
- 26 Snow on the ground, say
- 28 "\_\_\_\_" should keep himself to himself; "Treasure Island"



Puzzle by Natan Last

- 32 They may hold the lead
- 33 One looking for a deal?
- 34 Nobel-winning physicist Stern
- 36 Some people like them dirty
- 37 Those who aren't super dupers?
- 39 Put down anew
- 42 Hot \_\_\_\_
- 43 Like goldfish
- 45 Gas with a penetrating odor
- 46 Sports basket
- 48 Waves on l'océan
- 49 Desert mount
- 50 Law with many parts
- 51 Musical that opens with "Every Story is a Love Story"
- 52 Description of 15-Down
- 53 Fourth book of the Book of Mormon
- 56 Start of an exchange

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## Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



## su | do | ku

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## Cal Poly's Barden to play in Senior Bowl tomorrow



ANDREW SANTOS-JOHNSON SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY  
Cal Poly's Ramses Barden catches a touchdown in overtime against Wisconsin on Nov. 22.

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Cal Poly senior wide receiver Ramses Barden will make one final collegiate appearance on Saturday as he prepares to take his game to Sundays in the fall.

Barden will play in the Under Armour Senior Bowl at 4 p.m. tomorrow in Mobile, Ala. in a game that will be televised nationally on the NFL Network.

The 6-foot-6 receiver has already turned some heads during practice as he helps his north squad

get ready to battle the south.

"He's not wide-eyed here — he belongs," Cincinnati Bengals wide receivers coach Mike Shepard told the Palm Beach Post. "The overused word on him between now and the draft will be 'raw' because people will say small school and this, that and whatever."

"He's better than raw."

The Cincinnati Bengals coaching staff is coaching the north roster while Jacksonville Jaguars' staff will coach the south.

Originally selected to play in the 84th East-West Shrine Game on Jan. 17, Barden instead opted to play in the Senior Bowl a week later.

The Senior Bowl practices are attended by hundreds of NFL general managers, coaches and scouts.

Barden is one of five players from the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) who were selected to the Senior Bowl this year. Also selected were Sam Houston State quarterback Rhett Bomar, Central Arkansas quarterback Nathan Brown, Jackson State defensive back Domonique Johnson and Liberty running back Rashad Jennings.

Cal Poly had one of its greatest seasons in school history compiling an 8-3 record and securing the Mustangs' first Division I home playoff game.

Barden was a huge part of the team's success, catching 67 passes for 1,257 yards and 18 touchdowns. He caught at least one touchdown in all 11 Cal Poly games this season, tying the NCAA mark for consecutive games with a touchdown reception in a season set by Randy Moss.

He also holds NCAA records for most consecutive games with a touchdown catch (20) and most career games with a touchdown reception (32). He is 13th on the all-time scoring receptions list with 50.

Barden finished his senior season first in the Great West Football Conference in receiving yards per game (114.3) and scoring (9.8) and was second in receptions per game (6.1).

He was named offensive player of the year in the Great West for the second consecutive year and was named to the All-Great West first team for the fourth time.

Barden finished fourth in the voting for the Walter Payton Award, given to the FCS' best offensive player.

women's basketball | CAL POLY 68, PACIFIC 58

## Mustangs defeat Pacific



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly junior guard Ashlee Stewart drives against Pacific's Jasmine Dana in the Mustangs' 68-58 win over Pacific on Thursday night in Mott Gym. Senior forward Megan Harrison (not pictured) became the third player in Cal Poly history to score 1,200 points in her collegiate career.

## Kent calls it a career after 17 years in baseball

Beth Harris  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Jeff Kent always kept his emotions bottled up during his outstanding, 17-year major league career. He couldn't put a cork on them Thursday, when he tearfully announced his retirement.

His watery, red-rimmed eyes and frequent pauses to collect himself were in stark contrast to the gruff public demeanor Kent maintained for years, which led to his image as a surly sort.

He attributed that to his competitive nature.

"I don't get how you can go up to an opposing starting pitcher, give him a hug and say, 'How you doing?' and then go out there and try to hit a gapper," Kent said. "I tried to separate the emotions from the game."

"If you allow yourself as a player to get emotionally involved in every little thing that happens, I don't think you can stay as consistent as you ought to in this game. I wanted other people to perceive me as a guy who was level emotionally."

But that facade came undone during a farewell news conference at Dodger Stadium, especially when Kent looked over at his wife, Dana, daughter Lauren, and three young sons. His 12-year-old daughter wiped her eyes at times.

"We're glad to see him home," Dana Kent said.

At 40, retirement beckoned because Kent said he'd grown tired of life on the road and being away from his family in Austin, Texas, for much of the year.

A five-time All-Star and the 2000 NL MVP, Kent made his only World Series appearance with San Francisco in 2002, when the Giants lost to the Anaheim Angels in seven games.

"Being a Game 7 loser is the worst feeling that I've ever had as an athlete, but the participation in those games and being able to play alongside my teammates have put to peace any resentment of not being a World Series winner," he said. "I'm OK with it."

Kent had a .290 career batting average with 377 homers, 1,518 RBIs and a .500 slugging percentage. He was drafted by Toronto in 1989 and also played for the New York Mets, Cleveland, San Francisco and Houston.

"Half of my playing career I was able to get on a team and then make the playoffs, and what a special feeling that is to be part of," he said. "The reasons why I was able to do such things is because of my teammates."

Former Dodgers shortstop Jose Vizcaino stopped by to wish Kent well, along with team owner Frank McCourt, general manager Ned Colletti, former Dodger greats Duke Snider and Don Newcombe, and much of the team's front-office staff. Messages from some of Kent's former teams were read.

Colletti described Kent as "a no-nonsense player, someone you will never see lead a talkathon, but whose 1-on-1 counsel was invaluable."

Kent's famous intensity led to clashes with teammates, including Barry Bonds when they played with the Giants from 1997-2002, and the

two once scuffled in the dugout for all to see. In 2005, Kent tangled with then-Dodgers teammate Milton Bradley, who claimed Kent couldn't deal with black players.



Jeff Kent

"Those two guys were teammates of mine and we won," Kent said. "I had run-ins with other teammates. Was it me having a run-in with those guys or them having a run-in with me? It doesn't matter, we were all teammates."

Kent said he was proud of his integrity in baseball, although that was

called into question in 2002, when he claimed he injured his wrist while washing his truck. It later came out that he got hurt while riding his motorcycle, which violated the terms of his contract. The injury landed him on the disabled list to start the season.

Kent criticized players who used performance-enhancing drugs while endorsing improved testing.

"The integrity of the game has been jeopardized for so many years and I'm just so embarrassed about the steroid era," he said.

Kent thinks the sport has made great strides against steroids.

"Baseball has created a drug policy that is on the right path, that has brought the game to a better level playing field than it ever was," he said.

Kent said he applied a motto to his career that his police officer father taught him: If you're going to do a job, do it right.

"More than likely I would've been a cop when I grew up, hence the mustache," he said, drawing laughter. "Yet when we were kids, we fantasize about being an athlete. I wanted to be a baseball player. For 17 years, I got to live a fantasy and I'm truly, truly grateful for that."

Kent thanked the fans because, he said, "without them, I wouldn't have a job."

"I've learned to love and appreciate the fans and even the Jeff Kent haters out there most of all," he said. "Those are the people who motivate you."

Kent hit .253 during the first half of last season, improved to .353 in August, then injured his knee on Aug. 29 and had surgery four days later. He returned to make the postseason roster, but was relegated to a bench role. He went a combined 0-for-9 with four strikeouts during the two play-off series and became a free agent in November.

He'll be replaced at second base by Blake DeWitt, who took over when Kent was sidelined.

su|do|ku  
TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

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